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Letter: Wesley Bouslog to Opal Valentine Baker January 31, 1918

Wesley Bouslog

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Thursday. 1/31/18

Camp Joseph E. Johnston
Jacksonville, Florida

Dearest Valentine:-

now raining here and the boys are some sleeping, some reading, writing and singing, and almost every other thing to pass away the time. U.C. how I am passing it. According to Harry Van you perhaps would be lead to believe that I am now enjoying myself with some Creole Miss. Ha! Have never yet been out of Camp and you seldom see one in Camp. Some chance of doing as H. Van imagines. If I even had the opportunity I would not use it. If Van knew so much why didn't he say so many weeks ago for he has never gotten but one letter from me and that was while at Ft. Thomas and if I remember correctly that was only in the way of remembrance by a card. Only some of his hot air and of course he meant nothing by his remarks. I can only repeat that the confidence which you have always held in me, has never yet been betrayed. If I knew I only had a week to live I would spend my last week just as I have the rest since I left Old Indiana.

Oh! Yes! And as to getting old I may be in months but in actions I am ten years younger. You should see us get up and show pep in everything we do. Everything we do is snappy and I can perform many actions now that you would think a boy of my age could do. Ha! I may look like a negro but as it is hard to tell the age of a negro, I judge I look no older than two months ago.

As for having a good time I am trying to have just as much fun as military life permits but not in the way that some people might suspect. As for you I am just as I always use to be, that if you can have a good time and enjoy yourself, it is your privilege. I in no way cause any harm in enjoying myself. We grow old soon enough as it is. Time shall tell whether I have been true and worthy of the confidence placed in me. If I do not remain true, I am not worthy of your affection and you would be fortunate in losing me. never worry for with an obligation to my country I also have one to you and I shall strive to fill

both duties in a commendable way: you have made me what I am today in a moral way. That is an improvement over what I use to be. yet the Kaiser put me where I am today. (In uniform) See the difference. While I have affection for the one I have hatred for the other. C. the difference. If any change has come over me since leaving you it is all in your favor. The one who changes me shall have to break my affection and determination to return to you and to destroy a house built upon a strong foundation is a hard task. If such a change ever occurs it shall be God's will not mine for it is he that seeth that all things work together for the best. Well I have been on this subject long enough but I fear that the one who ever changes me by means of unfairness will sure suffer the curse of God. and the summary of it all is "I love you". That story about or rather tale about the woman wanting to go in a lodge was very good. Ha! yet she wasn't very thoughtful. This is how I would have taken them both up at once. Ha. just connected them up and tied the string to the connection. Ha! If that would it do the woman might have used a bit of bologna, a bunch for connections and the rest for something to tie the string to. Ha! this would have left some for tying string to! Ha! Well if it takes that lodge. Ha. Ha! am I correct or not? Again I say, Don't be to hard on M. O. and Fred. And I see where Don M. was put in class 1. I always told u he was 2nd class and you would not believe me. Now take notice how Nucle Sam classifies him. Ha! Nucle Sam makes you 1st class before you get into the army and then you are 5th class. Did you notice where they put Byron Post and others already in the service? They know that when we get out we would be in class 5; Ha! Can you believe as much. Well, I have been here almost a month of 31 days and I think I am now entitled to a pass to Jacksonville some Saturday P. M. if not on duty and then probably I can have a photo taken. It however won't show your negro admirer. Perhaps I can cover up the skin with powder. Just heard one boy jokingly remark to another "You remind me of the bottom of a bird cage." Ha! Quite a clever remark wasn't it? Well I am conserving paper these days and saying just as much so here's wishing you everything I am able. Yours
Wus

es L. Bouslog
Camp
Joseph E. Johnston
Jacksonville, Fla.



Miss Opal V. Baker,
Sulphur Springs,
Henry County. Indiana.

